

PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, ST. LUCIA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. 4067.



NEWSLETTER

N-253

14-July-80

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1.0 REMOVAL FROM THE OFFLINE AREA OF FILES NOT ACCESSED SINCE 1-1-79

All files not accessed on the offline area since 1st January, 1979 will be removed to tape. If any of these files are needed please complete a Computer Centre File Retrieval form and the file will be retrieved onto your online area within one week.

A new command TDIRECT has been added to the monitor to enable you to see which files have been copied to tape. For example, the command

.TDIR *.*

will list on the terminal all files copied to tape from your offline area. It includes the tape number and save-sit number (FMStt.ss:) for each file, as well as the size, protection and creation date.

Di Ball
Extension 3471

2.0 MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INACTIVE JOBS

Due to heavy usage of the KL system during semester, we have found it necessary to introduce procedures to automatically log out jobs that have been idle for 10 minutes. A warning will be issued after 5 minutes of inactivity.

Di Ball
Extension 3471

3.0 KILLING OF DETACHED JOBS AFTER DN87 CRASHES

Users will be aware that on a DN87 crash their job becomes detached. Reload and restart of a DN87 after a crash is automatic and takes about 3 minutes. In future such detached jobs will be logged out if not attached to in 10 minutes from the time of the crash. (On a DN87 crash the terminal will stop responding, whereas if the KL has crashed the message "tty not connected" will be typed.)

Di Ball
Extension 3471

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4.0 NEW VERSION OF STUPID

On 11th July a new version of STUPID (the editing program for the student accounting file) was put up on both the KA and KL systems. Two new commands have been added. These are IN/S and R/S, which provide the facility for inserting and removing an exercise from a range of programmer numbers. LM/S may be used to change the expenditure limit for a range or programmer numbers. The LIMIT command now types the cost to date as well as the expenditure limit before requesting the new limit.

Will Gout
Extension 3023

5.0 SYSTEM PERFORMANCE - APRIL

Hardware

KA - We have been plagued by a very elusive memory parity problem in the KA for some time. Unfortunately the diagnostics have not been able to locate the fault due to the low frequency of occurrence. Our technique in this case is to interchange various modules in an attempt to move the problem and then analyse the results. Our apologies for this inconvenience but we have no alternative.

Director
Extension 2189

6.0 1022 (TM) DATA BASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM*

The use of the 1022 (TM) Data Base Management System software acquired in January this year has grown rather rapidly. As it is licensed software, I should bring to the notice of all users relevant matters in the licence agreement.

All users should be aware of a relevant clause of the Prentice Computer Centre's "Conditions of Use and Liability Statement" which appears on the reverse side of all orders, viz:

The user acknowledges in relation to software products supplied to the University under licence, that the Prentice Computer Centre may disclose such external and interface details of such software as may be reasonably necessary to their proper use only

on condition that the user agrees that the software products or any part thereof are the property of the supplier and are proprietary to the supplier and that the user shall hold the software products or any part thereof in confidence for the supplier. The user agrees accordingly.

No user may copy licensed software in full or in part either in its written or machine readable form.

The 1022 software is licensed for use by "Designated Users" on the 1090 (KL) system and solely for demonstration and teaching purposes on the 1055 (KA SLOTS) system. Such "Designated Users" are defined as duly authorized employees, students and consultants of the University of Queensland and Griffith University for internal use only. "Designated Users" also includes other not-for-profit organizations who use the licensed program for internal use only for teaching, research and scientific purposes. Except for administrative users within the University of Queensland and Griffith University, "Designated Users" cannot use the 1022 licensed software for work of a "commercial" nature. No user can sell the product produced from a system using the licensed program.

The University may reprint any portion of the System 1022 (TM) Users Reference Manual provided such documentation is distributed only to "Designated Users". The following message must be placed in a prominent location on such documentation:

"System 1022(TM) is a proprietary produce of Software House, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Portions of this manual have been reprinted from the System 1022(TM) User's Reference Manuals with the permission of Software House. Use or disclosure of such material is subject to restrictions set forth in a license agreement relating to System 1022(TM)."

Any publicity or literature issued by the University or "Designated Users" must contain the following statement:

"System 1022(TM) is a proprietary product of Software House, Cambridge, Massachusetts."

The licence agreement states that "the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are expressly excluded with regard to the licensed program. Licensor will not be liable for consequential damages." Users should also note the Prentice Computer Centre's "Conditions of Use and Liability Statement" in relation to this matter.

Well, having covered our obligations, I guess I should say that the 1022 System has proved to be very reliable, efficient and effective over a range of research applications where information is required to be related over a variety of attributes.

It is currently being used in areas as diverse as piggery management, research into liver disease and the establishment of an international Virus Register. The most successful applications have

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been those where the principals of the project have been closely associated with the project from the outset. A detailed knowledge of the PDP10 prior to using the 1022 package is not essential, but it helps if those concerned have some aptitude for computing. From the research point of view the package's main advantage is that it enables a researcher to interrogate and update his data-base interactively in a completely random and ad hoc manner. Sets and sub-sets of his observations can then be identified and if required set aside for more intensive statistical analysis using the SPSS or STATPACK packages which interface with 1022.

If you have any queries, Tony Bird (3944) will be only too pleased to answer them.

*System 1022(TM) is a proprietary product of Software House, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Director
Extension 2189

7.0 SYSTEM 1022: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Well, the 1022 SIG has held its inaugural meeting and my sincere thanks to those users and well wishes who attended as well as to those who tendered their apologies beforehand.

From comments at the meeting it seems clear that although the informality was appreciated users would also like to have specific aspects of 1022 explained or demonstrated at future meetings. Anyone with suggestions as to suitable topics should telephone me on 3944.

The next meeting will be at 5pm on Wednesday the 6th August in the Client Room, Hawken Building, and all users, intending users or those with a general interest are invited. For the specific topic Chris McGovern will demonstrate the interface between 1022 and the SPSS STATPACK statistical packages. I answer user queries.

Tony Bird
Extension 3944

8.0 FINANCIAL MODELLING PACKAGE - SEMINAR

The Centre has obtained an interactive financial modelling package called DTPLAN. The package enables a user to describe a wide range of business situations in terms of tables of dollar values or other quantities and the relationship between them. A budget is a typical example of such a model. Once a budget for some business operation is set up, many "what if.." style questions may be posed and answers derived using the package.

To introduce the package, the Centre will run a morning seminar starting at 9 am on Wednesday 6th August in the Client Room, ground floor of the Hawken Building.

DTPLAN is on the System on the structure FIN:. To run DTPLAN, type

.R FIN:DTPLAN

There is a manual called DATMAN.MEM which is also on FIN:. To print a copy, type

.PRINT FIN:DATMAN.MEM

We would like to know what numbers to expect at the seminar. If you would like to come please telephone me.

Tony Bird
Extension 3944

9.0 NEW VERSION OF COBOL SYSTEM

There is a new version of the COBOL system on NEW:, consisting of:

the compiler, COBOL version 12A(1006);
the run-time system, LIB012 version 12A(604);
the COBOL library, LIBOL version 12A(604);
the library maintenance program, LIBRARY version 12A(30);
the debug module, COBDDT version 12A(27);
and ISAM version 12A(161).

The changes from the previous versions are described in DOC:COBOL.DOC, and the new help files are on HLP:. However, the main changes are as follows:-

a). Compiler.

Numerous bug fixes have been incorporated. There are some new features, including variable length sequential records, the OPEN EXTEND syntax (for appending to a file), and the CHECKPOINT OUTPUT access mode, which gives protection from system crashes for output or simultaneous update files at the expense of a slight increase in overhead. These features, as well as the deficiencies in the new compiler (none of which are serious) are described in full in the .DOC file. There is also a new compiler switch, /Q for QUICK, which, as well as implying the O(ptimise) and P(roduction) switches, eliminates range checks on performs.

Note that, to take advantage of the new features mentioned above, a program must be compiled, loaded, and executed with the new versions. This is most simply done by adding /NEW to the LOGIN command, putting /NEW in the LOGIN line in SWITCH.INI, or by running SETSRC and typing NEW<cr>.

b). Library and runtime system.

Again, the major changes are bug fixes, and support for the new features mentioned above. Unfortunately, the size of the run-time system has increased from 35P to 37P.

c). Library maintenance program.

The editor commands have been removed, SFD support has been added, and some bugs have been fixed.

d). ISAM. Minor bug fixes.

e). COBDDT.

Some new features have been added. New commands include DDT, LOCATE, STEP, GO, TRACE BACK and NEXT. These are described in the help file (HLP:COBDDT.HLP). Note that, according to the documentation, this version of DOBDDT is incompatible with previous versions of the compiler (although I have not encountered any problems).

If no problems occur, these programs will be moved to SYS: at the end of July, superseding the current versions.

Will Gout
Extension 3023

10.0 INFORMATION CONCERNING COURSES AND SEMINARS

10.1 Courses for August

Enrolments are now being taken for the following courses:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
a) RUNOFF	Mon 18 Aug- Wed 20 August	9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 5 pm
b) TYPESETTING extension to RUNOFF	Thurs 21 Aug- Fri 22 Aug	9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 5 pm
c) SPSS	Mon 25 Aug- Wed 27 Aug	9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 5 pm
d) Introductory Course	Thurs 28 Aug- Fri 29 Aug	9 am- 12 noon 1pm - 4 pm

(Please note change in afternoon session time.)

To enrol for courses, please contact Barry Maher, ext. 3021 (preferably between 12 noon and 2 pm).

10.2 Seminars for August

The following seminars will be held in the Client Room, Hawken Building:

<u>Seminar</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
a) Financial Modelling Package (See details elsewhere in this Newsletter).	Wed 6 Aug	9 am
b) Statistical Packages	Thurs 14 Aug	3 pm

This seminar is designed to promote a wider appreciation of the various statistical packages supported by the Centre. Often users employ a more sophisticated or more expensive package to perform some statistical task than is necessary for no reason other than they are not aware of the alternatives. The purpose of this seminar is to demonstrate

(i) the packages which are available

(ii) a representative sample of the tasks performed by each.

STATPACK? or SPSS? or ...? Come along and find out. Please phone 3021 if you wish to attend either seminar.

10.3 Requests for Courses/Seminars

Where demand exists for courses in addition to those advertised, the Centre will attempt to meet such needs. Similarly, information-type seminars for common-interest groups can be arranged.

Enquiries regarding information about courses or requests for courses can be directed to ext. 3021.

Barry Maher
Extension 3021

11.0 BOOK REVIEW

TIFFIN Chris and Helen (Eds) (1980): "SOUTH PACIFIC STORIES", South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Department of English, University of Queensland, 4067.

The appearance of South Pacific Stories in print, marks two major literary events of recent times. Firstly, they represent the best gleaned from the last two years of SPACLALS Short Story Competitions and secondly, it's the first book to be typeset through the Prentice Computer Centre at the Queensland University. While this last feat shows the book as perfect as one could wish it from cover to cover, the majority of the stories left me uninspired.

It isn't that they're not professionally or even sensitively written, it's just that, overall, there were no surprises. In fact, the general predictability made the book heavy going for me. From the beautifully photographed palms on the cover, we enter a world where a child gets killed by a falling coconut and crocs are kept in the backyard; ethnic words are dropped at such an alarming rate that a dictionary is needed for comprehension.

Subtlety and the element of the unexpected in story telling are two qualities which hold my interest and I searched far and wide in the pages to find them. The second half of the book is more rewarding than the first. In B. Wongar's Balanja, the Cockatoos, the author exquisitively portrays the landscape without ever allowing it to overtake the story as is common with some of the others where the South Pacific milieu is worn like a badge. It's true that most people are products of their environments but when the latter overshadow the characters, I find it rather tiresome. Travelogues are the best for such genre. Olga Master's A Good Marriage is very powerful in its simplicity; her guileless approach to the plot left me unprepared for the ending. Claire O'Brien's Go, Said the Bird treats "guilt" lyrically and in certain passages can soar almost to poetry.

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There are others which are very pleasing, but considering the book's momentous advent, one could wish for more. Anyway, don't take my word for it---- read the stories for yourself.

Silvana Gardner

Thanks to Silvana Gardner for this review. You may well ask why should the Computer Centre publish a book review. It is the first professional book published using our typesetting facilities and we are thrilled with the result. Maybe it's because I enjoy short stories or perhaps I was biased by the quality of the typesetting but the book provided me with a few hours of enjoyment. Those interested in publishing should obtain a copy to see what is possible with computer based typesetting. The collaboration with Chris Tiffin certainly had benefit to the Centre and we are grateful to him for "giving it a go".

Technical Manual No. 7 - "Introduction to Typesetting" (Runoff extended to typesetting) is now available from the Centre.

Director
Extension 2189

S Y S T E M P E R F O R M A N C E R E P O R T

For node KL10 there were 28 working days in the period 1/May/80 to 31/May/80

	<	KL10	>	<	DN87A	>	<	DN87B	>
		HHH:MM	%		HHH:MM	%		HHH:MM	%
1. Total system running time		520:35	100.0		520:35	100.0		520:35	100.0
less time used for:									
2. Scheduled maintenance		26:17	5.0		26:17	5.0		26:17	5.0
3. Dedicated operations tasks		10:44	2.1		10:44	2.1		10:44	2.1
4. Dedicated systems development		4:10	0.8		4:10	0.8		4:10	0.8
5. Equals time scheduled for use		479:24	92.1		479:24	92.1		479:24	92.1
less lost time due to:									
6. Unscheduled maintenance		1:33	0.3		0:00	0.0		0:00	0.0
7. Hardware faults		0:00	0.0		0:04	0.0		5:06	1.0
8. Software faults		3:55	0.8		0:04	0.0		0:00	0.0
9. Unresolved		0:56	0.2		0:25	0.1		2:46	0.5
10. Environmental conditions		2:00	0.4		2:00	0.4		2:00	0.4
11. Equals time available to users		471:00	90.5		476:51	91.6		469:32	90.2
12. Effective user uptime (11./5.)			98.2			99.5			97.9
13. Number of crashes			20			21			22
14. Mean availability between crashes			23:33			22:42			21:21
15. Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)			15			2			21
16. Total number of Jobs			18576						

Produced by LOGANL version [1.3] on 17-Jun-80 at 10:39

S Y S T E M P E R F O R M A N C E R E P O R T

For node KA10 there were 27 working days in the period 1/May/80 to 31/May/80

	< KA10 >	
	HHH:MM	%
1. Total system running time	514:23	100.0
less time used for:		
2. Scheduled maintenance	26:47	5.2
3. Dedicated operations tasks	7:20	1.4
4. Dedicated systems development	3:23	0.7
5. Equals time scheduled for use	476:53	92.7
less lost time due to:		
6. Unscheduled maintenance	0:52	0.2
7. Hardware faults	8:17	1.6
8. Software faults	1:24	0.3
9. Unresolved	0:55	0.2
10. Environmental conditions	2:00	0.4
11. Equals time available to users	463:25	90.1
12. Effective user uptime (11./5.)		97.2
13. Number of crashes		28
14. Mean availability between crashes		16:33
15. Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)		23
16. Total number of Jobs		17367